26

C

31 Oct 1980

via CC

cc: C Archives IC

via Snr P PRO

Snr P PRO Res

re: Archives

Dear Sir:

I'm sending this to you because you are the most knowledgeable in the subject and are the senior archives terminal. It's a briefing on actions I've been involved in with various categories of Archives materials and a proposal for some guidelines for future handlings.

Brief history: Way back in early 1972 you asked the Port Captain's Office to prepare a time track of the ship's movements from when she left the UK up to PT (we were then frequenting a few Moroccan and Portugese ports).

I got the job and sat in Lower Hold 1 for several days going through old log books and forming the track.

At that time I became very interested in the SO history and observed that no one really was writing one, nor was anyone even preserving the docs and records one would need to later write such a history. But I postulated then to one day see that it got done. So, you provided my initial nudge in that direction.

Well 8 years marched by and I contributed my little bit to the Sea Org but had nothing more to do with records, archives and a history until the start of this year.

In January there was a raid threat at SU and we all held a shredding party and great amounts of old files were pushed through the paper gobbler. I was then R Renos IC and D/CO HU SU. Brenda Black, R Gear IC and my junior at the time, came to me during the all hands shredding with a beat-up cardboard box of old papers, which she said had been found some time previously in the garage on the SU property.

The old papers turned out to be R's diaries from his trips to Asia between 1927 and 1929, some of his poems, and personal correspondence in the 30's and 40's.

I realized that not only were these materials of inestimable value both in PR terms and hard collector's cash but we (the Church and R) had come very close to losing them. So I sought out Laurel and got them copied and copies sent to Pers Sec Flag and Pers Librarian WW.

Laurel, who had been R Pers PRO for several years, did not know of the existence of these things. So then I thought that if there was this one box, maybe there were more.

And in going through some old DC inventories I did find several more boxes then in the Rstorage space at SU. These contained R fiction manuscripts (published and unpublished), early correspondence, records from various expeditions, naval records, etc.

The value of these things is immense. They had been kept in cardboard boxes since the 50's and they were in danger in the SU storage space from weather and fire. That space was at that time was quite open to the elements and was a fire trap.

So I took the liberty of removing these things to the PR Bureau, acquired a bunch of file cabinets and sorted the materials out and into files. At some time/s since DC they appear to have been gone through and messed up to some degree.

At the same time I learned of the R biography project which had been kicking around for several years and which, I believe, had not achieved a product because of the lack of documentation. So with these "new" records, covering in detail R's history prior to Dianetics, a biography seemed like a real possibility.

At this point my transfer to the PR Bu was arranged and I came on post as "Snr Pers PRO Researcher" to handle two major projects: the biography research, and the formation of a museum. The museum was an idea for getting maximum value from these early materials and ensuring their preservation. (There are other artifacts in storage at SU which have considerable interest and value - like R's naval uniforms, scout uniforms, gold pans from his Puerto Rican expedition, etc. etc.)

Archives: In the normal course of my work I became acquainted with the various archives units in the Church. I have seen your despatch of 26 August re: Archives, a copy of which I've attached for your easy reference. (Att. 1)

Archives generally are now receiving the attention R intended for them. The C Archives is obviously the most vital and is being handled professionally. SO Archives & Artifacts under Frank McAll is making good progress after little or no attention for years. My "rescue" of R's personal records will assist. The "Archives Trust" will be another step towards the optimum handling of these things.

The R Originals Program (Att. 2) of the ex-R Accts laid out, in addition to the financial benefit to R, some far-reaching purposes:

"That a charitable (non-profit) library would be established, and would be the repository and reference service for R originals for present and future generations' use."

"That the library, as an independent and unbiased body, could very well in the future become the "last word" on what is correct and what isn't. Language changes over the years, and as the years and decades and even centuries go by it will become increasingly crucial that an independent authority exist on Source materials. This library could very well serve in this capacity."

Interestingly, I recently came across two R docs from 1952 which evidence R's intention back then that a similar institution to the planned "Archives Trust" be set up. (Att. 3; Att. 4)

Situations: There are a couple of situations I have come across which I think can now be resolved by alignment with the purpose of the "Archives Trust". (I put "Archives Trust" in quotes because its title, form and relationship to other "trusts" now being worked out - "R Estate Trust" and "Trademark Trust" - have not been established.)

Situation A. It appears the various Churches around the world are either doing nothing about or are giving away their valuable artifacts.

Data: Over the past 5 or so years the market value of LRH published works, including fiction, Dianetics and Scientology early materials, plus things like early meters, etc. has soared incredibly.

Collecting LRH materials has become a fairly big business and for some collectors is their whole occupation. In fact it is a sort of sub-culture within Scientology.

Some sample costs: BUCKSKIN BRIGADES can go for as much as $1500.00; a set of DIANETIC AUDITOR BULLETINS from the early 50's for $750.00; a red leather DMSMH for $10,000.00.

Just within the past two months many specifics related to the above Situation A have come on my lines:

a. Seattle - The R Comm had sold some org early materials (books, Abilities, etc.) to a Flag Reg who visited the org on tour. (The reg is himself a collector).

b. Seattle & Portland - the orgs gave lists of old-timers who had dropped off lines to a collector who has been going around picking up their old materials for almost nothing. Only then did the org get onto contacting these same old-timers.

c. Berkeley - an early Dianeticist came into the mission to donate his early materials and science-fiction books as he was moving out of the area. The Treas Sec recognized a good thing, took the materials personally and has been selling them since.

d. LA org had a bunch of early JOURNALS OF SCIENTOLOGY (worth a couple of thousand dollars) left in an area which floods regularly and they were all completely ruined.

e. Jim Isaacson tells me that when LA org moved to the current premises several boxes of early materials including stacks of R originals were thrown away or lost.

f. A great amount of early publications, meters etc. were, within the past two weeks, removed from a room in DC. The R Comm reported to me that they were "subject to dampness and rats".

A DC staff member wrote to R (and very luckily SO#1 sent the comm to me) asking if he could keep the projection meter found with these materials. This is the only known projection meter in existence.

The list goes on and on.

Orgs are not viewing these early materials as Church assets and they are not being cared for. More than likely no policy exists to ensure their safety.

I have mentioned to various old-timers who now possess quantities of early valuable materials the possibility of a museum being set up to house and preserve such materials and got total agreement that that's where they would want their things to go. This indicates to me that if the Church/es were active in properly caring for and displaying early materials more old, valuable materials would be attracted.

My idea is that the "Archives Trust" can become the repository for these early materials, in addition to the original documents. It will have a preservation and display function.

Until it is established however the Church should become active in holding onto the materials it has.

On the preservation of LRH fiction publications, I recently came across an R note of 1969 (which apparently was not complied with as intended): "Also preserve the SF Library. (Forrest Ackerman's) I have no copy of anything."(Att. 5)

Situation B. The function of PR Archives WW, as currently set up, is not clear and its original purpose is apparently not being carried out.

Data: As you know a PR Evaluator at WW has been doing an eval to get the Archives materials sorted out and located in their proper areas.

I met with the evaluator while I was at WW and she toured me through the PR Archives. From what she told me, these Archives have not been given the attention they should have received, were mixed up and to some degree are unusable in their present form. Someone a few years back combined with Archives a lot of GO PR files (PR situations handled, subjects then of current interest to PR's, etc.) with the intention that "Archives" would become usable by PR's, which never happened.

PR Archives is currently in an unheated, damp building, and the smell of mildew pervades the area. (I don't know that it is always like that but was when I was there.) For this reason, if not anything else, it needs a revamping as soon as possible.

The function of the "historians of the company" is very important. The data and materials collected are themselves of great value, and assembled into a usable reference library they have even more value. Additionally, the fact of creation of an archives and library adds importance, value and longevity to the subject in the minds of anyone who hears of such a project.

There are a couple of areas in which Church units are not the authorities, but ought to be: LRH published works, and early organization history.

The experts in these areas (or at least the accessible experts) are private collectors. There are two or three collectors who have spent years researching LRH pen names, fiction works published, and Dn and Scn works, including all editions of every publication.

Some collectors have researched R recommended books (mentioned in Bulletins, P/L's, other publications or on tapes) and have collected all these. Some also are collecting any publication containing any mention of R or Scn, plus squirrel publications and plagiarisms.

The GO is very much the authority in some of these things over the past decade or so but for the very early days and early publications collectors' data is relied on heavily.

There are also collectors who have specialized in histories of Scientology and Dianetics in various geographical areas. They have interviewed early people and pieced together time tracks. TTAPP has used their data in the search for tapes and for inclusion in the Research and Discovery books..

One collector has been travelling around locating the earliest buildings which were important in the growth of Dn and Scn (Elizabeth, LA, Wichita, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Camden, DC, etc. etc). This guy is photographing the buildings and checking on their availability for purchase. He's also trying to locate early photos from the periods when they were Dn and Scn establishments. Using these photos and current building measurements he's having paintings done of these buildings. He's also planning to have scale models of the buildings built.

These things could be viewed, when considered against the really vital actions that must be done to handle this planet, as frivolous, but I think they have their place, and there will come a time when we will be thankful for every bit of history which was preserved.

These areas rightfully belong to the "Historians of the Company". They would align with the R Originals Program and be a valuable contribution of the "Archives Trust".

In this way can be resolved what to do with the materials in PR Archives. It isn't a question of whether the "Archives Trust" is a GO unit or not. (Obviously a tight liaison will always exist between the "Archives Trust" and GO Units.) The main point is that the "Archives Trust" can become the true "historians of the company". It very easily could be a part of the GO.

Regardless of what body or network sponsors the "Archives Trust", it should be to some degree an independent unit. Otherwise it would be subject to unmock (or unmanning) or involvement in current environmental situations, both of which conditions apparently happened at WW. Archives, other than providing historical data, would not get involved in handlings.

Situation C. An immediate sort-out is needed between C Archives and Snr P PRO Researcher Archives of some materials.

Data: I have in my possession some Technical originals which should go to C Archives. C Archives has some non-Tech and non-Policy materials (correspondence, books, manuscripts, etc.) which would better be in my files.

I have enjoyed, by the way, an excellent working relationship with C Archives IC and have been able to find for him a couple of dozen R tapes Archives did not have previously, plus a great number of R lectures or auditing sessions on soundscriber discs.

The written Tech materials I have I found mixed in with non-Tech correspondence in some old DC boxes. Mostly these are handwritten processes or Tech notes, but also include some Tech manuscripts. I've now gone through all the materials I have and removed all the Tech materials for transfer to C Archives.

I understand from C Archives IC that he has a bunch of non-Tech/Policy materials which should go to me. These would be helpful for my two projects (the biography research and the museum/"archives trust").

Ultimately all originals, Tech or non-Tech, will probably be under the same "trust" umbrella. But for now, and so that as much data is available as possible for the biographer, I would like to arrange the exchange of the materials between the two units.

I realize that the foregoing is very discursive, but wanted to give you as much data as possible. The handlings for the three situations noted I've included in a proposed program of immediate actions and a guideline for future actions. This proposal follows, and if okayed can be sent to the various people involved.

Much love,

(26)

CENTRAL OFFICE OF LRH ED _____ 2 Nov 1980

WDC
Office of the Controller
Guardian Committee
GO WW
PR Bu WW
Pers Sec Flag
Pers Sec WW
Pers Librarian WW
Pers PRO's
MCCS
R Accts

ARCHIVES

The final disposition of the various archives around the world has not been worked out and will depend on the corporate legal actions now in progress. There are, however, some guidelines which can be laid down here and made known and some immediate actions to be taken.

1. Aside from financial benefits for donors, the proposed Archives Trust will have the following purposes:

   A. To preserve the Founder's original Technical and non-Technical materials, writings and artifacts.

   B. To preserve copies of every publication of the Founder's writings in their many forms, plus related publications from the various Churches and other sources.

   C. To be the "historians of the company", record, research and preserve the history of the Founder and the philosophy.

   D. To be the authority on the Founder and his materials.

   E. To ensure the safety of all the materials entrusted to its care for all time.

   F. To display and make available these materials for all people.

   G. To be active in getting the Founder known, understood and his subjects and products accepted.

2. Attorneys involved with the corporate leg actions to be briefed on the above intended functions of the Archives Trust so they have the full scope of this unit in addition to financial viewpoints. The Archives Trust is a major action to ensure the perpetuity of Scientology.

MCCS_____

3. PR Archives WW files to be handled according to the above intention for the Archives Trust and the following:

A. Those files which are usable by PR's (eg. situation handling files, active files, etc.) to stay in PR WW files.

B. Those files containing materials which should be held by "the historians of the company" (eg. manuscripts, ship records, book and promo editions, etc.) to be separated out and preserved for the Archives Trust. Location for these materials to be designated later.

PR Archives Unit WW
in liaison with the
Archives Trust _____

4. Pers Sec Flag "Val Doc Files" to be separated along similar guidelines to those in 3. above. Those items which have historical importance go to Archives; those which pertain to current actions of a secretary stay in Pers Sec files.

Pers Sec Flag in
liaison with the
Archives Trust _____

5. By issue get all Churches around the world to secure and care for their valuable materials and artifacts in anticipation of the establishment of the museum/s.

Snr P PRO Reschr_____

6. Exchange the Tech materials now in B Personal files for the non-Tech materials in C Archives.

C Archives IC _____
Snr P PRO Res _____

7. Work out the manning up of the Archives Trust. (There is no need for all legal to be done before many of the functions can be started.

Snr P PRO
Snr P PRO Res
in liaison with GO

8. Work out admin procedures and policies for the Archives Trust, get them approved and implemented.

Snr P PRO
Snr P PRO Res

Researcher

for

Snr P PRO

Approved by

The Controller
and
WDC